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CONSUMERS' GOODS IN SHORT SUPPLY

PAPERS REPORT SHORTAGES -- Ostatnie Wiadomosci, No 124, 4 Nov 49

According to a reader's complaint which appeared in Dziennik Polski, No 277, so called "people's restaurants" are run for profit in the same way as under private ownership.

The complaint continues: Prices are high and the food is inferior. A laborer, retired employee, or low salaried collar worker cannot afford to pay 100, 130, or 150 zlotys for a dinner every day. There are popular priced luncheons at 70 zlotys, but these dinners are served after 1500 hours and consist of a half portion of the traditional lungs, hardly a substantial meal for a working man.

Zycie Warszawy, No 285, states that the storerooms and shelves of the General Merchandise Stores are stocked with hundreds of pairs of outmoded and impractical women's rubber overshoes for which there has been no demand in the past year but which continue to be sent to the stores.

It also reports the following: There has been a great demand for baby carriages for the approaching winter season. There are none at the stores, but strollers are plentiful. There are plenty of big butcher knives in the stores but table knives cannot be found. There is a complete lack of coordination between production and demand.

Dziennik Polski, No 254, gives the following data on price increases at the beginning of the fall of 1949.

Print butter costs 800-850 zlotys a kilogram in Warsaw, one egg 25-26 zlotys, and cream 300 zlotys per liter. Vegetable prices have risen. One cauliflower costs 40 zlotys, tomatoes 180 zlotys per kilogram, and good-quality potatoes 12 zlotys per kilogram. Rice is available in Warsaw in limited quantities, and is sold in one-fourth kilogram quantities to families with children and to hospitals. The official price of one kilogram of rice is 395 zlotys. Small 50-gram packages of Ceylon tea cost 240 zlotys. There is a shortage of pepper and other spices.

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A kilogram of wool yarn costs 10,000-15,000 zlotys and can be bought only in private stores. There is no wool in the General Merchandise Stores. Men's overcoats of 60-percent wool sell for 17,000-18,000 zlotys; women's coats of identical quality sell for 12,000-13,000 zlotys. Low-grade materials of 30-percent wool cost about 2,000 zlotys a meter, 60-percent wool 3,500 zlotys per meter, and 100-percent wool up to 8,000 zlotys per meter. Nylon blouses cost 4,000 zlotys in the General Merchandise Stores and 6,000 zlotys in privately owned stores.

Ordinary rabbit pelts are sold for 1,200-1,500 zlotys apiece. Sealine costs about 2,000 zlotys per skin. Long sheepskin coats will be sold for 34,000 zlotys when they are available, and sleeveless fur jerkins for 12,000 zlotys. Furs in state stores are sold only to members of trade unions.

The stores will soon start selling inexpensive wrist watches for 3,000 zlotys each and pocket watches for 1,500 zlotys. A sewing machine costs 30,000 zlotys and an Olympia Progress typewriter nearly 36,000 zlotys.

In rural areas a pair of ordinary shoes for a 5-year-old child costs 4,000 zlotys.

ADDITIONAL HOUSING PLANNED FOR IN WARSAW -- Gazeta Ludowa, No 280, 24 Nov 49

For the Six-Year Plan on residential construction, the current population of Warsaw is figured at 750,000 - 630,000 in Warsaw proper and 120,000 in the environs. It is estimated that at the end of the 6-year period, the population of Warsaw will have reached 850,000.

Housing must be provided for 150,000 new inhabitants, for 30,000 who must be transferred from quarters requiring repairs, and for 70,000 who occupy quarters that are not habitable.

On a ratio of two persons to a room, instead of the present two and three, the plan provides for the construction of 120,000 rooms to house the above 240,000 persons

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